

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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R 290937 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6239

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3780

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, CH

SUBJECT: MALIK ON RELATIONS WITH PRC

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK SAID MARCH 28 THAT INDONESIA WISHES TO GIVE ITS ASEAN PARTNERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PEKING BEFORE REGULARIZING ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH THE PRC.

2. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW CABINET, MALIK SAID NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING IS " NO LONGER A PROBLEM" FOR INDONESIA, AND THAT THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IS NOT AS INFLUENTIAL A FACTOR IN THIS MATTER AS IT WAS
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PREVIOUSLY. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER WITH THE PRESIDENT.

3. MALIK SAID THAT, IN ANY CASE, INDONESIA IS IN NO HURRY TO NORMALIZE ITS EXISTING RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND THAT IT WISHES TO AVOID " CORNERING" THE OTHER ASEAN NATIONS, BY ACTING BEFORE THEY DO. INDONESIA WILL THEREFORE WAIT UNTIL THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS MAKE THEIR MOVES TOWARD PEKING, HE SAID, AND THEN " FOLLOW" THEM.

4. HE SAID THE OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS UNDERSTOOD INDONESIA'S ATTITUDE AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE FEBRUARY ASEAN MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR, AND THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT THE FORTHCOMING ASEAN MEETING AT PATTAYA IN APRIL. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL THAT MALIK HAS EXPLAINED AWAY INDONESIA'S RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH PEKING AS A MATTER OF DEFERENCE TO ITS ASEAN NEIGHBORS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL FIND HIS COMMENTS MORE THAN A LITTLE DISINGENUOUS.
GALBRAITH

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